

Tomato leaf miner - *Tuta absoluta* Meyrick

Small, greyish dark moths. The body is 5-7 mm long, the wingspan is 8-10 mm. The forewings are with characteristic silverfish-grey scales and black spots. The antennae are filiform (resemble a string of beads), which is an important key in determining the species. However, for establishing species identity with certainty, taxonomic knowledge is essential. The colour of the larvae can be from greenish to pink.

The host plants of the larva include tomato, potato, and other solanaceous plants. There are reports on damages on beans as well.



fotos.infojardin.com

The moth, which is captured in the trap



farm3.static.flickr.com

photos.eppo. org

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Damage: the larvae mine in the leaves producing smaller or larger galleries through feeding on the mesophyll tissues. They can also burrow into the fruit, causing a substantial loss of tomato production in greenhouses and also in the field. Damage can reach up to 100%. Damages can occur throughout the entire growing cycle of tomatoes. Tomato plants can be attacked from seedlings to mature plants. In tomato damage can take place on apical buds, leaves, stems, flowers and fruits, on which the black frass is visible. On potato, mainly the green parts are attacked. Recently damage on tubers was also reported. The pheromone trap should be suspended at the level of the top of vegetation. Expected beginning of trapping in Hungary is beginning of April.

Selectivity of the CSALOMON® trap: so far no other species has been reported.

The damage of the larva, which should be averted

Longevity of the CSALOMON® trap in field conditions: depending on the warmth of the weather at least 4-6 weeks. After this period we suggest to set up a new trap for most effective detection and monitoring. Renewal of sticky inserts in intervals of 7-10 days. In case of high catches this may become necessary more often.

Pheromone traps are ideal for the detection of the presence of *Tuta absoluta*. Monitoring of the flight pattern and the timely detection of a mass outbreak can also be performed. Control measures are most efficient if applied against the young larvae. In hot weather several generations can develop, which can grow in numbers especially in the second half of the summer.

Tuta absoluta originates from South America, where it became a serious pest from the 1980-s. In the Old World, since the first detection in Spain in 2006, the pest is spreading rapidly across Southern Europe and North Africa in the Mediterranean countries. Its presence has been reported in Italy, France, Malta, United Kingdom, Greece, Switzerland, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Albania [1]. Until 2009, it has not been detected in Hungary.

[1] www.tutaabsoluta.com



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So it looks when caught in
the CSALOMON® RAG
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